The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

WHOLE NO. 1875 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 11

U. S. Labor Mission to Argentina Threatened With Violence by Hosts

Washington, D. C.—The third installment of the text of the American Labor's Mission to Argentina, appointed at the invitation of the Argentine Government and the Confederation of Labor there, is herewith presented. Subsequent installments will be published in succeeding issues.

The Central Committee of the CGT met in secrecy on the night of Tuesday, January 28, to take up the resignation of General Secretary Luis F. Gay. The meeting was preceded by a street demonstration staged by a group of "workers" who demanded the direst punishment against "traitor Gay," and his accomplices. The meeting was attended also by Minister of Interior Angel Borlenghi. The pro-government press which had maintained a barrage of accusations and vilifications for several days, had created a dangerous atmosphere of excitement and tension. Gay was not present at the meeting. As a matter of fact, he had disappeared completely from the scene, without giving even a statement to the press in explanation of his decision to resign. Up to this day no information is available as to whether the decision was a voluntary one or whether he took this action under duress, except that we knew from Gay himself that he was called by President Peron for a conference immediately following the first reception at which the existence of a "misunderstanding" was first brought to our attention by President Peron himself.

Only a brief communique was given out by the press department of the CGT dealing with the secret meeting of its Central Committee on Tuesday night, January 28. From it, however, we learned that Gay's resignation from office was accepted unanimously. A motion to remove him from membership in the Central Committee of the CGT was also approved unanimously. It was also announced that the resignation of the entire Executive Committee of the CGT had been accepted by a majority vote. The meeting did not proceed with the election of a new Executive Committee and new General Secretary, but adjourned until February 8, leaving the affairs of the CGT during the interim in the hands of its office manager, Guillermo Tomasi.

Before the adjournment of the meeting, however, the members approved the following significant resolution, the text of which we take from "La Nacion" of January 30, 1947. (Translation is ours.)

"In view of the resolution adopted by this Central Committee of the Confederation, by which Citizen Luis F. Gay was separated from membership in the same, we express the most complete concurrence with the position taken in this matter by his Excellency the President of the Republic, General D. Juan Peron, to whom we send in this emergency a vote of total solidarity."

This decision of the Central Committee of the Confederation and the manner in which it was adopted, plus the fact that the Confederation was left to all intents and purposes without executive officers convinced the delegation that it would have been futile to continue to hope for the resumption of contacts with the CGT, contacts which had been interrupted on the first day after our arrival—our first and only meeting with them having been held on the night of January 20. The delegation decided therefore to resign itself to the continuation of its work after the active sponsorship of the original trade union reception committee appointed by the Department of Labor and to make the best of it in an effort to bring our mission to a successful conclusion.

The remainder of our stay in Argentina was spent in meeting with representatives of various unions, visiting factories and conferring with individual workers and leaders of organized groups. The business part of the schedule was interspersed with several excursions to various points of interest in and around Buenos Aires. The delegation was pleased to have the opportunity to learn more of the physical aspects of the country. However, we did not permit such excursions to interfere with the business of our trip.

During the course of our stay in Argentina the delegation experienced several unfortunate incidents. While enroute on an excursion by motor car to Mar del Plata, a resort city near Buenos Aires, the secretary of the delegation was subjected to threats of physical violence by Raul Costa, one of the members of the committee of Argentine workers detailed to escort us. We were forced to inform the Government official in charge of the delegation that unless such action ceased, we would feel it necessary to return immediately to Buenos Aires. We received no apology whatever from those in charge of the excursion for this inexcusable behavior.

A second incident which was extremely unpleasant occurred some days later while the delegation was in Santa Rosa, a small inland village in the territory of La Pampa, on its way to Bariloche, a resort in the Andes Mountains. The delegation had indicated a desire to return to Buenos Aires to keep a number of appointments. While this matter was being thrashed out, several members of the Argentine committee accompanying us delivered a broadside of vicious verbal attacks against Garriga, Minton and Romualdi, all members of our delegation. The attacks culminated in a written ultimatum to our delegation that unless we continued on our way to Bariloche, they (the Argentine Workers' Committee) would take steps to see that President Peron canceled the farewell banquet which had been arranged for the delegation at the end of its stay in Argentina. Furthermore, we were informed that a lengthy typed statement of attacks against the delegation would be carried in the press of the country.

The delegation was so thoroughly disgusted with this type of behavior that it found it necessary to advise the Government representatives in charge of the trip that under the circumstances we saw no alternative but to return immediately to Buenos Aires for the purpose of conferring with the American Ambassador, preparatory to an immediate return to the United States. The tactful firmness of Chairman Arnold Zander, however, resulted in a withdrawal of the attacks on the part of our Argentine escorts, whereupon our journey to Bariloche continued. Nevertheless, when we returned to Buenos Aires later in the week we discovered that apparently all of the formal farewell arrangements that had been announced in the press had in fact been canceled.

The delegation feels it necessary at this point to comment on the fact that the Government of Argentina exercised extremely poor judgment in its choice of some of the members of the Argentine Workers' Committee which accompanied us on our official trips.

During the last few days of our stay in Argentina we continued our interviews and conferences with leaders and members of labor organizations and with other groups and individuals who could be helpful to us. Of special interest to us was the reception given the delegation by the Printers' Union of Buenos Aires. We conferred on Friday, February 7, with Ambassador Messersmith.

On the evening of February 8—the day on which we were scheduled to leave Argentina, but one day before we actually left on account of bad flying weather—the Central Committee of the CGT met to elect new officers and new Executive Committee. Aurelio Hernandez, who had led the attack against Luis F. Gay at the previous meeting of the Central Committee, was elected General Secretary, and Mario Tedesco, who had supported Hernandez in the attack, was elected his assistant. Only two minor members of the preceding Executive Committee were included in the new one. Out of 75 members of the Central Committee who attended the meeting, 23 expressed their disagreement by abstaining from all balloting.

The new General Secretary Hernandez in an interview given on February 10 to the daily newspaper, "El Laborista," reaffirmed, in forceful terms, the concept of function of the CGT as an instrument of active and close collaboration with the Government, rejecting "certain ideological distortions" . . . (of some who) "are talking to us frequently of 'trade union independence,' which is not sincere and aims to separate the workers from the Revolution and its great leader, General Juan D. Peron." Hernandez ended his interview with the following significant statement:

"Men have changed, so have the predominant factors, the conditions and the goals. Parallel with these changes, the function of the trade unions and the central labor bodies must also change."

As to the fate of Luis F. Gay, whom we vainly tried to contact in order to offer him at least an expression of our regret for any aggravations indirectly caused by our presence in Argentina, we were unable to ascertain anything definite up to the day of our departure. Every sort of rumor reached us, including one that he had been arrested, held for a period incommunicado and then confined in a sort of protective custody. We found it difficult to believe that such could be the fate of the leader of an organization of more than half million workers just because he had allegedly disagreed with the trade-union plans of the President of the country. Before leaving, our chairman, Arnold Zander, inquired from the leaders of the official trade-union reception committee and from officials of the Department of Labor, who always accompanied them, as to Gay's fate and whereabouts. To our painful surprise they, too, said that they knew absolutely nothing about him.

The delegation boarded its plane on Sunday, February 9, for return to the United States. The details of our departure were in sharp contrast to the circumstances of our arrival. The Government evidenced a rather surprising lack of interest in our departure, there being only a minor clerk or two present to bid us farewell.

Nor being certain until the last minute whether we would have an opportunity to bid farewell to our hosts, the chairman of our delegation was forced to prepare at the last minute a brief statement of farewell to President Peron. Another statement was released to the press upon our return to the United States. This statement, we regret to say, was distorted in the pro-government press of Argentina to convey the impression to the public of that country that there was a division of opinion within the delegation as to our attitude toward the Argentine Government and toward the people of Argentina generally. We, therefore, feel it necessary to emphasize once more that throughout the entire duration of the trip the members of the delegation maintained internal harmony and solidarity. The conclusions arrived at in this report represent the unanimous opinion of all of the delegates individually and collectively.

(To be Continued)

COURT CUTS 11 DAYS OFF TIME FOR U.M.W. TO KILL STRIKE MOVE

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court has directed John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, to cancel his strike call by March 25.

This advances by 11 days the period which normally would have been allowed under the recent decision of the highest tribunal which upheld District Court Justice T. Alan Goldsborough, who had directed cancellation of the strike notice and imposed huge fines when his edict was not carried out.

Unless Mr. Lewis complied with the latest order, the original penalty of $3,500,000 against the union must be paid. The Supreme Court reduced the $3,500,000 fine to $700,000 on condition the injunction issued by the District Court would be obeyed. Otherwise, it ruled, the full penalty would be imposed. It upheld the $10,000 fine against Mr. Lewis.

This action by the court, in shortening the time within which Mr. Lewis would be obliged to call off the strike notice, was requested by Attorney General Tom Clark and drew strong opposition from Mr. Lewis and the union.

One legal move appeared open to Mr. Lewis and the union—a request to the Supreme Court for a rehearing on its original findings. However, lawyers pointed out, only in rare instances has the court granted such a request.

The entire legal action had its beginning when Mr. Lewis served notice on Interior Secretary Krug in November of termination of the agreement which they had reached in May, 1946, following Government seizure of the mines to end a strike.

District Court Justice T. Alan Goldsborough ordered Mr. Lewis to cancel the strike notice, and, when he neglected to do so, imposed the $3,500,000 fine on the union and $10,000 on Mr. Lewis. The action was carried to the Supreme Court, which upheld Justice Goldsborough's contempt of court ruling. Under ordinary procedure, a mandate by the Supreme Court is issued 25 days after a decision is handed down. Compliance is required within five additional days.

Meanwhile, members of the union in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia were reported in press dispatches to be taking collections among their groups to raise funds to help pay the fines. District presidents said the move was entirely voluntary.

High Court Backs U. S. Right to Fire Red Sympathizers

Washington, D. C.—The right of the Government to discharge from its service persons whom evidence strongly indicates have communistic links was upheld by the Supreme Court when it declined to review the case of Morton Friedman, now a New York lawyer, whom the Civil Service Commission had released from his post as head of the classification division of the War Manpower Commission.

He was discharged in September, 1944, after occupying various Government positions since October, 1935, on grounds that he was in sympathy with communism, due to his activity in connection with the American Peace Mobilization.

Unions of Government employes, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, have carried on a continual campaign for the weeding out of Federal workers known to be sympathetic to the communist cause.

Refusal of the Supreme Court to review the lower court's decisions gave the effect of law to the rulings of the lower tribunals through which the case had passed and validated the wider authority of the Civil Service Commission's wartime regulations.

NLRB REPORTS AFL WON 152 ELECTIONS IN JANUARY

Washington, D. C.—American Federation of Labor unions won 152 elections, or 61 percent of those in which they participated during January, according to reports from the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB states that its backlog of cases continues to rise, with a total of 5,115 cases awaiting action at various procedural levels at the month's end. This represented an increase of 36 percent over the number of cases pending in January, 1946.

GREEN TO TESTIFY ON REDS

Washington, D. C.—Among those asked to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee on bills to outlaw the Communist Party, are FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, Attorney General Tom C. Clark, the Right Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, AFL President William Green, and leaders of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

WHOLESALE PRICES RISE

Washington, D. C.—In the first week of March, every item on the wholesale commodity price list notched a few points upward, with an average rise of 1.6 percent, according to an announcement by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wholesale prices averaged 48.7 percent above 1926 and 37.4 percent higher than a year ago.

Hearings On Anti-Labor Bills End; Committees Expected to Propose Sharp Curbs On Union Activities

Washington, D. C.—Labor committees in both branches of Congress have concluded hearings on proposed anti-labor laws, and indications from both groups are that they will recommend far-reaching curbs on unions and the nation's workers.

Six weeks of hearings before the House Labor Committee were concluded March 15, and the committee will convene immediately to begin drafting a bill which, observers predicted, will be much tougher than that which is expected to emerge from the Senate group.

The Senate hearings ended a week earlier and the task of drafting the Senate measure already has gotten underway. The Senate bill is expected to be an omnibus plan, incorporating many proposals presented in recent months.

Rep. Landis of Indiana, ranking majority member of the House group, told newsmen that he alone has some 18 or 19 proposals in regard to revision of labor legislation, but is confident the House draft can be completed in two weeks.

In reply to the demand of one witness for a ban on the closed shop, however, Landis declared that "we can't go whole hog on this thing, or we might not get anything." He added that he believed Congress would pass legislation more strict than the Case bill, approved at the last session but vetoed by President Truman.

"The question is how far we can go and get a bill into law," he said, "not a question of getting it through the House. We don't want to do anything to create more turmoil than we have now."

He expressed belief also that bills to ban the closed shop and industry-wide bargaining—two of the major proposals in the labor legislative picture, would have the least chance of getting by Congress.

Legislation Aimed At Labor Unions Becomes Top Issue In Many States

Washington, D. C.—Bills concerning labor legislation revision, some proposing sharp curbs, some to increase taxes and others carrying some benefits, such as raises for teachers, have taken the spotlight in State legislatures in many parts of the Nation.

This was revealed in a national poll showing the trend of such legislation in various parts of the country. Measures affecting labor, it was revealed, shape up along these lines:

Legislation to bar the closed shop was approved this year by legislatures in North Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, North Dakota, New Mexico, Georgia and Virginia and was adopted previously in Arizona, South Dakota, Nebraska, Arkansas and Florida. This brings the total to date to 12.

Similar measures are pending in seven states and were killed or withdrawn in four.

A bill to legalize the closed shop has been offered in Nevada, where a ban has been on the law books for years, and suits challenging the validity of closed-shop amendments to state constitutions have been filed in Arizona and Nebraska by labor organizations.

Virginia enacted a law to postpone a strike or lockout in a public utility for at least five weeks after negotiations end, to give the state time to take over and operate the facilities.

Georgia legislators voted to bar the involuntary check-off of union dues and picketing by more than two persons.

Rises or cost-of-living bonuses now are being considered in six states. These, if accepted, would add $140,000,000 or more to the teachers' incomes.

Rises for teachers also became a hot subject in most legislative halls. In the background scores of educators took other jobs or engaged in strikes. In the foreground there was pressure for quick and adequate action and in Delaware a protest march on the capitol. Here is an up-to-date box score:

Salary increases already have been approved in nine states. They will put another $100,000,000 a year in the pay envelopes of school people. The boosts for the most part range from $300 to $800 annually.

ILGWU $100,000 Loan to Dutch Union Presented to Loudon by Dubinsky

New York City.—David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers (AFL), presented a check for $100,000 to Dr. Alexander Loudon, the Netherlands Ambassador to the United States, as a loan from the ILGWU to the Netherlands Trolley and Railway Workers Union for the purchase of overalls, shoes and other work clothes.

The presentation was made at a luncheon here attended by 50 labor officials, including the members of the ILGWU Executive Board and representatives of several European seamen's unions.

In making the presentation, Mr. Dubinsky observed that the assistance was being given to Netherlands railway workers on ideological grounds as well as for humanitarian reasons.

The IFTW, he explained, "believes as we do that the World Federation of Trade Unions, as constituted today, is not the solution to the question of world trade union unity." AFL unions have voiced strenuous objection to the WFTU as a vehicle for international labor cooperation because Soviet unions, which are "not free," are represented.

Immediately after accepting the check, Dr. Loudon handed it to Willy Dorchain, the American representative of the International Federation of Transport Workers, with which the Dutch union is affiliated. Mr. Dorchain will spend the money here and arrange for shipment of his purchases. The three-year interest-free loan has been endorsed by the Netherlands Government.

Addressing the group, Dr. Loudon said he did not feel armed warfare was imminent. "But," he added, "I do believe we are in the midst of an ideological contest." Before a durable peace can be fashioned, he held, "we must find a new approach to the matter of international law."

Dr. Loudon suggested that the primary basis should be "the rights of man—human dignity."

NEW PENSION PLAN WON BY ELECTRICIANS' UNION

Philadelphia, Pa.—A new pension plan, the first of such wide scope in the construction industry, which will provide old-age benefits for more than 150,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (AFL), has been announced by the union and President William F. McCarter of the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association.

A result of two years' collective bargaining, the new plan will provide retirement benefits of $50 monthly to IBEW members who reach the age of 65 and have been union members for 20 years. The plan has been approved by the commissioner of internal revenue.

Each member of the union will make a specified contribution to the fund and this will be matched dollar for dollar by an employer's contribution equal to 1 percent of the gross payrolls paid by contractors to union members.

SECURITY WAGE REPORT

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Security Agency of the Social Security Administration has announced that at the outset of 1947, approximately 75,000,000 living persons had wage credits toward old-age and survivor's insurance.

TRIBUTE TO SEA HEROES

San Francisco, Calif.—A new $700,000 steel and marble union building is under construction here for the Sailors Union of the Pacific (AFL) as a "living monument to sailors who died for their country during the war."

FACTORY INJURIES DECLINE DUE TO SAFETY MEASURES

Washington, D. C.—A greater observance of safety standards during the fourth quarter of 1946 resulted in a decrease in the volume of work injuries in manufacturing, despite rising employment, was shown in a report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Labor Department.

The report stated that in this period there were, on the average, 16.2 disabling work injuries for every million employe hours worked, as compared with averages of 18.1 in the second and third quarters and 18.2 in the first quarter. It added:

"It is estimated that approximately 124,100 manufacturing workers were disabled for one or more days as a result of work injuries during the fourth quarter of 1946. About 400 workers died as a result of these injuries and approximately 5,700 others were known to have developed permanent physical impairments at the time the reports for the quarter were prepared. Later information about the other cases, which were considered less serious at the time of reporting, may require that this estimate of permanent injuries be revised upward.

"Working time lost by the injured persons during the quarter is estimated as about 2,482,000 mandays, representing a value in wages alone of nearly $20,000,000. This, however, represents only a portion of the total cost which will accrue from these injuries: It includes no allowance for the economic losses arising from the many deaths and permanent impairments.

"The estimate of 124,100 disabling injuries represents a decline of about 4,700 injuries from the estimated total for the third quarter."

Green Condemns 'National Health Bill' As 'Sorry Health Insurance Substitute'

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green, in a formal statement, denounced the "National Health Bill" sponsored by Senators Taft, Ball and Smith as "a sorry substitute for health insurance," and declared the AFL "shall continue to press for enactment of a measure that will make available the best modern medical care to all people without the necessity of a means test or a pauper's oath."

Mr. Green's statement follows:

"The hearings held last spring on the National Health Bill revealed a demand from the public for federal action in the health field that could not be ignored. Senators Taft of Ohio, Ball of Minnesota and Smith of New Jersey therefore introduced a so-called health bill as a substitute for the sound program of health insurance long urged by the American Federation of Labor. I said at that time that their bill was "a 1946 model 'poor law' extending the pernicious and outmoded method of relief to the field of providing medical care for the indigent.

"The same three Senators have now introduced another health bill (S. 545) with a new recruit added to the sponsors, Senator Donnell of Missouri. There is very little difference between this year's bill and last year's—what difference there is, is for the worse, representing a more decided drift toward complete control of medical service by those who have a proprietary interest in sickness.

"This bill, like last year's, attempts to approach the problem of the nation's health on the wholly inappropriate basis of charity. While providing medical care to the indigent represents a real problem and one with which we in the American Federation of Labor are in sympathy, this is not a suitable approach to take in meeting the nation's health needs.

"People in the lower and middle income groups need protection against the cost of medical care which can only be provided by a program of health insurance. They will never submit to the indignities of investigation and examination that would be required under the Taft-Ball-Smith-Donnelly proposal.

"The American Federation of Labor is not deceived by this sorry substitute for health insurance. We shall continue to press for the enactment of a measure that will make available the best of modern medical care to all people without the necessity of a means test or a pauper's oath."

Senate Portal Pay Bill Is Attacked In Report By 5-Man Minority Group

Washington, D. C.—The portal-to-portal pay bill drafted by the Senate Judiciary Committee was vigorously denounced in a five-man minority report which branded it as a sly device which would repudiate fair labor standards laws.

"If this Congress wants to repudiate the pledges of both great parties, in the last presidential election, to support the Fair Labor Standards Act, we believe that the only honest course is to do so openly, to tell the unorganized millions of workers dependent on this act that the Congress no longer believes in fair labor standards for them," the report declared.

The bill, designed to wipe out some six billion dollars in portal back pay suits, was attacked on grounds that it affects past and future situations having no relation to the portal issue. Signers of the minority report were Senators McCarran (D., Nev.), McGrath (R., R. I.), Kilgore (D., W. Va.), Magnusson (D., Wash.) and Langer (R., N. Dak.).

Their report was filed while Senator Donnell (R., Mo.), chairman of a Judiciary subcommittee which prepared the majority's bill, held the Senate floor for most of the day, explaining the provisions of the proposed law.

Donnell declared that if pending portal-to-portal suits are upheld "in any material portion," a "further influx of litigation" would follow.

The dissenting minority agreed that the pending claims should be outlawed. It will support a substitute bill to this purpose to be offered by McCarran and McGrath.

But, they said, the committee majority's bill goes much farther than is necessary or justified. Its cumulative effect, they argued, is to make a material alteration of the present Fair Labor Standards (minimum wage and hour), Walsh-Healy (Government contracts) and Davis-Bacon Acts.

It denies employes the right to collect claims for violations of these laws by employers in situations not related to the portal-to-portal issue, the minority held.

Their other objections to the bill:

1. It is of doubtful constitutionality, in seeking to deprive employes of legal claims under previously enacted laws.
2. It subjects the Walsh-Healy and Davis-Bacon Acts to crippling interpretations, although these measures are in no way involved in the portal question. It reduces them, and the Fair Labor Standards Act, to "mere recommendations which could be disregarded with impunity."
3. It sets working standards on the basis of contracts or customs, rather than law. This would be equivalent to legalizing child labor, the minority argued, merely because it was agreed to by contract, or had been the practice in years past. It permits canceling the Wage and Hour Act by a "contract, written or unwritten," which would, in effect, supersede previous statutory standards.
4. It does not define the term "portal-to-portal," and thus leaves "courts, employers, employes and the Government in hopeless confusion."
5. It is written in such language as to be unenforceable.
6. It throws open for rebargaining many portal-to-portal rights previously won in contracts.

Broader Social Security Is Favored By Labor, Management and Farmers

Washington, D. C.—In what was regarded as a highly constructive discussion of proposals for changes in the Social Security Act, presented over the facilities of the National Broadcasting Co. March 16, spokesmen for labor, management, farmers and a member of Congress agreed that the program should be expanded.

In the weekly broadcast known throughout the nation as "America United," Nelson Cruikshank, AFL social security director; Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt, of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce; Joseph W. Fichter of the National Grange and Rep. Jenkins of Ohio, concurred in the belief that the benefits of the social security plan should be extended to large groups of workers who are not covered by the present scope of the law.

The only questions at issue appeared to be the extent to which the benefits should be broadened and the various worker classifications which should be brought within the program, which at present have not been included.

"I don't think there is really so terribly much difference of opinion among us three who are representing labor, agriculture and management," Dr. Schmidt said. "We are all for this kind of protection.

"We think there are some gaps in the present program that ought to be covered, and the Chamber of Commerce has been very emphatic about this. And we are all for the farmers being brought in, and for numerous other groups, including non-profit groups if they want to come in. But we think they will have to come in on a compulsory, rather than a voluntary basis."

Mr. Fichter, expressing hope that the program would be extended to farmers, discounted the fears of some that the plan might have a tendency to discourage thrift. On the other hand, he said, such a program, in his belief, encourages thrift.

Concurring in this opinion, Mr. Cruikshank cited discussions about social security prior to the passage of the act in 1935, and the fears expressed then that it would adversely affect thrift, particularly in regard to life insurance.

"There was some genuine fear at that time that the people taking out annuities and endowment policies would be adversely affected," he observed. "However," he added, "the experience is, I believe, that the insurance business has actually increased, in some instances because of social security, and that savings and life insurance have not suffered by the old-age survivors' program."

Dr. Schmidt said that he strongly agreed with this view, and that he did not believe home ownership had decreased because of the program. He added that he regarded home ownership as a very important device for social security.

"It is not the function of social security to bring the good life to the American citizen. All its function is is to provide a basic minimum of protection, so that nobody will ever be without some visible means of subsistence when he meets economic hazards," he added.

Mr. Jenkins said he believed the program would be extended, and that present benefits are not sufficient. He explained that the more persons included in the program, the more taxes would be collected proportionately, and for that reason it should not prove more expensive.

AFL CITRUS WORKERS WIN

Lakeland, Fla.—The American Federation of Labor Citrus Workers' Union here won an election among Mann Brothers employes in a recent poll.

TEAMSTERS GET RAISE

Atlanta, Ga.—A renewal agreement has been signed recently between Teamsters' Local 450 and the Southern Wax Paper Co., granting employes a 20 percent increase.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

WILLIAM GREEN, President
WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1947
GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

U. S. Labor Mission to Argentina Cites Techniques to Rule Workers

Washington, D. C.—The fourth installment of the text of the American Labor's Mission to Argentina, appointed at the invitation of the Argentine Government and the Confederation of Labor there, is herewith presented. Subsequent installments will be published in succeeding issues.

We wish to make it clear that there was general agreement within the delegation on the fact that there are many beautiful things in Argentina. We admire greatly the cleanliness and architectural beauty of Buenos Aires, the picturesque character of Argentine lakes and mountains and the genuine friendliness of its people. We found that by and large the ordinary citizen of Argentina loves his country and is fundamentally democratic in his outlook and aspirations. The Argentine people have many things in common with the people of the United States, since it also is made up of immigrants from many of the nations of Europe. The members of the delegation feel that they left behind them many friends.

During our stay in Argentina, which covered exactly three weeks, the delegation spent the greater portion of its time in personal interviews with leaders and members of unions affiliated with the CGT, the important independent unions, civic leaders—both in the Government and in the opposition—representatives of political parties and others. Wherever possible we requested supplementary memoranda and other documentary material in support of verbal statements. We met also with Government officials, industrialists, individual workers, representatives of North American firms doing business in Argentina and the American Ambassador and others of his staff, in an effort to obtain a well-rounded picture of the economic and labor situation in the country.

The members of the delegation gathered a considerable quantity of factual material and, upon our return to the United States, have made a thorough study and analysis of it in the light of the basic purpose of our mission. We have endeavored to keep the text of the report as concise as possible and have indicated references to the Appendices frequently throughout so that the more detailed body of material contained in the documents may be used by those who wish to give a more complete study of the matters dealt with in the report.

The delegation presents the following analysis and conclusions:

TECHNIQUES USED TO WIN LABOR SUPPORT AND GAIN CONTROL OF UNIONS

Argentina had been ruled for decades by an oligarchy of Estancieros, meat packers and other powerful economic groups which dominated the political life of the country and held in check the aspirations of the working people toward a higher standard of living and a more advanced state of social legislation. Consequently, economic and social reforms were long overdue.

As a result of the war, Argentina thrived economically. She did not have to spend huge sums for military preparations and could at the same time command excellent prices for the sale of agricultural products to a hungry world preoccupied with military production. This enabled the Government to fill its treasury and enabled private industry and agriculture to reap high profits.

Present thus with an overwhelming demand on the part of the workers for a progressive program of social and labor legislation, on the one hand, and on the other hand with the funds available to carry it out without seriously affecting the solvency of the Government or the profits of private industry, Peron and the Military Government which was in power from June, 1943 to June, 1946, were quick to see the advantage of using organized labor and the mass of unorganized agricultural workers as a political instrument.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERVENTORS OVER UNIONS

Peron and the preceding Military Government which was under his influence, have made effective use of the device of appointing interventors or administrators over any organization or agency supposedly not performing its function in a proper manner. This device was extended to the labor movement shortly after the Revolution of 1943. In a number of unions whose officers and members were unwilling to avow their full and active support to the Government there were appointed interventors, whose power over the affairs of the union is complete and final. The elected officials of the organization are completely stripped of all control over policy determination, administration and finances of the union. Frequently the interventor secures the removal from office of recalcitrant union officers. (Appendices N and O.)

Under the control of the interventor union elections are only rarely permitted. If the election turns out to be unfavorable in so far as the Government is concerned, it may be set aside by the interventor and a new election held. In the case of the Union Ferroviaria (Railroad Workers' Union), three elections were held until an administration satisfactory to the Government was returned to office. (Appendix N.)

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION OF UNION LEADERS

The appointment of interventors has only been resorted to where the leadership of the union proved unwilling to deliver itself and the membership over to the Government and to support enthusiastically every plan and action of the Department of Labor and Social Welfare. In many cases such action has been unnecessary because the leadership of the union has been willing to throw its support to the Government without any other inducement than that of granting some special economic concession to the workers of that particular industry, which would then be used as the basis of consummating a political bargain between the administration of the union and the Government. After a concession is granted by the Government, which under ordinary circumstances would probably have been obtained through collective bargaining, the Department of Labor and the leaders of the union usually arrange a mass meeting of the affected workers for the purpose of demonstrating gratitude to the Government for such "gifts." These occasions are almost invariably used by Government officials to whip up enthusiasm for Peron and his policies. (Appendices G, H, I, M and N.)

THE "PERSONERIA GREMIAL"

One of the most important devices for exerting pressure on the labor unions to yield to the Government is that of granting or withholding the "Personeria Gremial" from the organization. (The Personeria Gremial is the legal recognition which is required by law in Argentina for any union to carry out its functions.) Where the Government rejects or refuses to act on the application of the union, the union is thereby prevented from carrying on its regular activities. The authority from which this is derived is known as Decree No. 23852, of October 2, 1945. The recognition provided under it insures the union the right to:

1. Represent the members individually and collectively before the Department of Labor and Social Welfare, the Pension Administration, the Department of Justice and other departments of the Government;
2. Collaborate or affiliate officially with other legally recognized organizations in dealing with labor and economic matters.
3. Participation in collective discussions with the employers for the purpose of consummating or modifying agreements or supervising the enforcement of labor regulations and promoting their improvement.
4. Collaboration with and participation in Government sponsored technical committees for the purpose of study and solution of problems of the industry;
5. Participating in any political activities when so decided by a convention or assembly of members of the union.

It is thus evident that any union failing to secure the Personeria Gremial would be virtually debarred from doing anything to serve the interests of its members or to obtain benefits of any kind for them. The Government has made use of this law to discriminate against bona fide trade-unions which refused to convert themselves into political instruments in the hands of the Government. Examples of this are the Printers' Union, the Textile Workers' Union, the Federation of Hat Workers, the Shoe Workers' Union, the Private Chauffeurs Union, Union Syndical Argentina, and a number of others. (Appendices F, G, H, L, M and P.)

Each of the above named organizations is the generally accepted bona fide union in the industry. They are all among the oldest and most responsible unions in Argentina. Nevertheless, they have been unable to secure the Personeria Gremial. In all except the case of the Printers' Union, La Fraternidad and a few others the Government has instead created dual organizations in recent months, all of which have been promptly granted the Personeria Gremial and consequently are vested with full rights to represent the workers in the industry and to avail themselves of all the machinery placed at their disposal by the Department of Labor. (Appendices F, G and M.)

DISCRIMINATORY ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR LAWS

The Government goes to the extent of disregarding the enforcement of labor laws in the case of unions which do not have the Personeria Gremial. Government decrees establishing standards of wages, hours and working conditions, paid vacations, pension plans and other benefits are often not applied in industries where the unions lack the Personeria Gremial. On the other hand, officers or representatives of Government-sponsored unions are placed on the staff of the Department of Labor as liaison men between the union and the Department to see that labor laws are properly enforced and to act as a channel of authority from the Government to the union.

(To be Continued)

AFL RAIL UNIONS ASK MORE PAY AS LIVING COSTS RISE

Chicago, Ill.—Requests for a 20-cents-an-hour pay increase have been made by seven American Federation of Labor non-operating railroad unions representing an estimated 500,000 workers. The requests were drafted at a meeting of union leaders here for immediate presentation to railroad operators.

James M. Burns, secretary-treasurer of the Railway Employes Department of the AFL, who announced the results of the meeting, said this would be the sole issue in negotiations with the carriers.

Mr. Burns said that the union leaders decided to postpone action on proposals to reduce the work week from 48 to 40 hours and change certain working or operating rules. He added that the shorter week was set aside temporarily because of the shortage of experienced railway employes.

Mr. Burns said the wage increase was being asked because of pay inequities between railroad workers and employes in other industries, because of the advanced cost of living, and because "railroad workers need more take-home pay."

The unions involved are non-operating groups and include the International Association of Machinists, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Ship Builders and Helpers, International Brotherhood of Blacksmith and Drop Forgers, Sheet Metal Workers International Association, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America and the Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers.

Green Pledges Help To Wall St. Union In Fight For Raise

Chicago, Ill.—Full support of the 7,500,000 members of the American Federation of Labor was pledged by AFL President William Green to the United Financial Employees in its threatened strike against Wall Street exchanges and brokerage houses.

The entire membership of the AFL will stand firmly behind the financial workers "until they win victory," Mr. Green declared in an address before the Chicago convention of the Office Employees International Union, parent body of the UFE.

The union announced that it would act soon to cancel its no-strike contracts with the New York Stock, Curb and Cotton Exchanges as an outgrowth of the refusal of the brokerage firm of A. M. Kidder & Co. to arbitrate a wage dispute with the UFE. Thirty days' notice is required before the cancellations become effective.

Mr. Green told the convention delegates that he was proud that "the workers in the Stock Exchange have the courage to stand up and demand improved standards.

"If there is any place in America where high wages and better working conditions should prevail," the AFL president said, "it is in this money-making establishment in New York, the Stock Exchange."

Referring to the union's offer to arbitrate, Mr. Green declared:

"W want better wages and conditions of employment."

"The employers say: 'No, you must surrender to us.' I do not believe the people of the United States will support the owners and operators of the Stock Exchange in this position. I consider that refusal (to arbitrate) as justification for the workers to go on strike and fight for their rights."

Green Urges Labor To Back Appeal For Cancer Fund

Washington, D. C.—An urgent appeal to workers throughout the Nation to join with other groups in the drive to raise funds to combat cancer has been issued by AFL President William Green.

In his message to the Nation's laboring groups Mr. Green said:

"The workers of the Nation suffer from the dread disease of cancer equally with all other classes of people. The death rate among working people from cancer is exceedingly high. For that reason labor should join with other groups in the fight which is being made against cancer and its deadly effects.

"Many expert medical representatives report that at least 30 percent of those suffering from cancer can be saved by early diagnosis and treatment. All of this requires broad education and money with which to do it.

"The American Cancer Society opens its campaign on April 1 for collection of $12,000,000 to be used in the fight against cancer. The American Federation of Labor has been asked to cooperate and give support to this most worthy cause.

"I respectfully call upon labor everywhere to respond and assist in every possible way in this fund-raising campaign in order to carry on a successful fight against cancer."

Musicians' Union Gives $1,651,058 of Royalties For Public Entertainment

New York City.—Music lovers throughout this Nation and in Canada will be the beneficiaries of the fund raised by James C. Petrillo, National President of the American Federation of Musicians (AFL), through the union's contracts with manufacturers of musical phonograph records for royalties on their sales.

Cities in every part of the country have been allocated large sums to provide public concerts, entertain patients in veterans' hospitals and for similar projects.

Of the $1,756,435 in royalties collected, $1,651,058 has been allocated. In addition to providing public concerts, the fund will provide many jobs for unemployed members of the union. The fight for royalties waged by Mr. Petrillo was based upon a realization that musical recordings were responsible for the release of musicians in many theaters and other night spots.

The following sample chart, listing only a few of the locals, which is to be followed through with all locals of the Musicians' Federation, gives a general idea of the amounts to be received by individual locals in various cities:

All locals—First 5,000 members	$10.43
Each additional member over 5,000	2.00

Local	Members	Per Member	Amount
802—New York City	24,686	$10.43 to 5,000 $2.00 over	$91,522.00
10—Chicago	10,975	10.43 to 5,000 $2.00 over	64,100.00
47—Los Angeles	10,483	10.43 to 5,000 $2.00 over	63,116.00
5—Detroit	4,413	10.43	46,027.59
6—San Francisco	4,010	10.43	41,824.30
77—Philadelphia	3,765	10.43	39,268.95
9—Boston	2,478	10.43	25,845.54
60—Pittsburgh	2,447	10.43	25,522.21
4—Cleveland	2,169	10.43	22,622.67
8—Milwaukee	1,926	10.43	20,088.18
149—Toronto	1,796	10.43	18,732.28
73—Minneapolis	1,662	10.43	17,334.66
76—Seattle	1,495	10.43	15,592.85
16—Newark	1,414	10.43	14,748.02
161—Washington, D. C.	1,295	10.43	13,506.85
2—St. Louis	1,262	10.43	13,162.66
30—St. Paul	1,238	10.43	12,912.34
40—Baltimore	1,168	10.43	12,182.24
406—Montreal	1,139	10.43	11,879.77
1—Cincinnati	1,104	10.43	11,514.72
325—San Diego	1,020	10.43	10,638.60

Billion-Dollar Social Welfare Budget Is Forecast By Taft to Cover Needs

Washington, D. C.—An eventual billion-dollar-a-year budget for social welfare, covering health, education and housing, was forecast by Senator Taft of Ohio, who described the housing shortage as a problem crying for attention.

"We are going to have to do something soon" to get more homes, Taft declared in testifying before the Senate Banking Committee. Replying to a question by Senator Robinson of Virginia as to whether he would favor increasing the national debt, now totaling 262 billion dollars, Taft emphatically replied:

"No. I would not."

Nevertheless, he said, the housing situation is a national problem and "nothing is closer to the welfare of the people."

"The Government has done no job at all in the past," he said, "and private industry has never provided the necessary housing for lowest income groups."

Taft asserted that the emergency program set up by Congress last year to encourage production of scarce building materials has been "a complete failure." He said that of 400 million dollars provided for subsidies to producers, only about 35 million dollars will have been spent by the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

"The justification for public housing is that we have to eliminate the disgraceful type of housing in which the lowest income families live," he said.

Taft was joined in his testimony by Senators Wagner (D., N. Y.) and Ellender (D., La.), cosponsors of the Wagner-Ellender-Taft bill which sets up a goal of 15 million new dwellings by 1958. Some of this construction would be public housing, built with the aid of Federal money.

Stressing the need for public housing, Ellender cited industry opposition and declared:

"I find such an attitude very disturbing. In effect, it is a recommendation for the condemnation indefinitely of millions of our citizenry, through no fault of their own, to lives of squalor and disease."

Raymond M. Foley, National Housing Administrator, told the committee that while the WET bill is "not perfect, I believe it would make it possible for this Nation to start forward now with the kind of a housing program which has long been needed."

Taft estimated the housing program would ultimately cost 150 million dollars a year. He linked this outlay with proposed educational and health assistance programs, each costing 250 million dollars annually, and declared:

"It would not be too much to raise this to one billion dollars a year when we have a Federal budget of between 25 and 30 billion dollars a year."

Major features of the WET bill call for Federal aid to States and localities for low-rent public housing projects and slum clearance, encouragement to private builders of rental housing for moderate-income families, and preference to veterans as tenants in public housing.

The housing shortage was also discussed at a hearing before the House Banking Committee, with Housing Expediter Frank R. Creedon testifying that the lifting of Federal housing controls would disrupt a "great many" housing projects and divert scarce materials to nonessentials, such as racetracks and night clubs.

Real Estate Lobby Blamed For 'Squeeze In Housing'

Chicago, Ill.—Charges that lobbying real estate "tycoons" have been deliberately prolonging the "housing squeeze" at the cost of the public interest by blocking low-cost housing were made here by Lester Washburn, International President of the AFL-International Union of the United Automobile Workers of America.

In an article written for the union's official publication, AFL Auto Worker, Mr. Washburn declared the purpose of the real estate interests is to keep property values and old houses 50 percent higher than original costs. He added:

"As a defense raised to explain the lack of construction, we hear the old, old plaint, labor costs are too high. The truth is, these real estate tycoons don't want new construction. Why should they build homes when they have to wait 60 or 90 days for a profit? Besides, each new home built means an easing of the shortage, and that worries the real estate dealers.

With the disappearance of the shortage comes the end of the pyramiding of prices on ancient dwellings now being unloaded at levels 50 percent higher than the original cost. It's much quicker and easier to buy and sell, pushing the ceiling price ever upward while keeping the shortage.

"The only possible fly in the ointment for the real estate operators was the expected interest of the government—local and national. The aim of such intervention would be, of course, to provide low-cost housing to as many families as desire it. But armies of high pressure and well-padded lobbyists swarmed into most legislatures and hamstrung the low-cost housing programs so effectively that they seldom got beyond the blueprint stage."

WOMEN LIKE 40-HOUR WEEK

Washington, D. C.—The Women's Bureau of the Labor Department study entitled Women's Wartime Hours of Work, just released, indicates that the 48-hour week in factory work is about the human limit, and that the 40-hour week is preferred despite the attraction of overtime pay.

BUILDING MEN GET RAISE

Spokane, Wash.—A two-year wage agreement has been signed here by the Spokane Building Trades Council and the Associated General Contractors, providing for a flat 20-cent hourly wage increase. The agreement also provides for time-and-a-half for all overtime except Sundays and holidays, which will pay double-time.

'Big Business' Is Charged By Green With 'Powering' Anti-Union Drive To Outlaw Closed Shop Contracts

Washington, D. C.—Charges that the current drive against the closed shop is being financed and powered by "Big Business" interests which have never dealt with labor unions on a closed shop basis have been made by AFL President William Green.

In a formal statement prepared at the request of PIC Magazine, Mr. Green declared that if employers were sincerely ready to accept the trade union movement as a working partner, there would be "no need for this device."

Mr. Green said:

"The courts have ruled in numerous decisions that the closed shop is lawful, constitutional, not contrary to public policy and that it does not deny to any man or woman the right to work. Actually, the closed shop is nothing more or less than a device to protect the security of unions.

"If the employers of this country were sincerely ready to accept the trade union movement as a working partner in industry and to abandon any lingering hope of destroying the unions representing their employes, there would be no need for this device.

"The present drive against the closed shop is being powered and financed by Big Business interests which have never dealt with labor unions in the past on a closed shop basis—in fact, have never willingly dealt with labor unions on any basis. These business interests — and the politicians who lackey them—are hostile to labor. The longer their attitude persists, the stronger will become labor's determination to insist on closed shop contracts in self-defense.

"Labor will never become convinced that the closed shop is unnecessary for union security until the opposition to it from such sources ceases. There is no reason in law, ethics, or common decency why an employer and his employes should not be allowed to enter into an agreement which requires that those seeking jobs in a plant must join the union in order to qualify.

"Attempts are sometimes made to confuse the public by picturing the closed shop as a closed union which bars new members. This is deception of the worst kind! We are continuously urging and exhorting non-union workers to join our ranks. Far from seeking to deny them the right to work, the trade union movement has succeeded in firmly protecting their right to work under the best conditions in any part of the world.

"The closed shop principle represents the full and final acceptance of mature collective bargaining between workers and management, free from mutual suspicion and mistrust. Once put into effect, the union is relieved of the burden of self-defense and can concentrate on establishing more harmonious labor-management relations and improved production methods.

"This is the forward direction which labor-management relations must take in America if we are ever going to solve the basic problems which keep cropping up in our industrial life. We dare not turn the clock of progress backward and return to the law of the jungle. We cannot employ the method of legislative repression of labor without inviting turmoil and chaos in labor-management relations.

"Some of our unions have had union-shop agreements with employers for over fifty years. They have established collective bargaining on a firm basis and reached the highest level of union-management cooperation. The Ball bill would cut the foundations out from under them. Wittingly or unwittingly, Senator Ball is acting as the agent for big corporate interests who are out to destroy the trade union movement. His bill will not promote industrial peace. On the contrary, it will provoke discord and strife and wreck labor-management relations permanently."

Miners Cancel Strike Call After High Court Ruling

Washington, D. C.—Bowing to the mandate of the U. S. Supreme Court the United Mine Workers (AFL) withdrew its contract termination notice of Nov. 15, 1946.

John L. Lewis, president of the union, in a letter to Interior Secretary Krug, announced that the notice was "unconditionally withdrawn."

At the same time Mr. Lewis addressed letters to all units of the union notifying them of his letter to Mr. Krug calling off the strike notice. The text of the letter to the Mine Workers, which included a copy of his notice to Mr. Krug, said:

"The instruction of December 7, 1946, to members of the United Mine Workers of America to continue production of bituminous coal until March 31, 1947, is hereby unconditionally withdrawn and all the members of the United Mine Workers of America are hereby instructed that said Krug-Lewis agreement is in full force and effect until final determination of the basic issues arising under the agreement.

"These actions have been taken in full conformance with the orders and directions of the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia as affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States on March 6, 1947.

"The foregoing is for your official information.

"Sincerely yours,

"JOHN L. LEWIS,
"President."

Under the ruling of the Supreme Court the union is obliged to pay a fine of $700,000, and Mr. Lewis a fine of $10,000 for contempt of court for their refusal earlier to cancel the strike call.

Lewis Raps Appointment Of Boyd As Mine Chief

Washington, D. C.—Appointment of James Boyd to head the Bureau of Mines was "a political deal," and the Government should have consulted "the men who are going to die in the mines" before naming Boyd to be in charge of their safety.

This sums up the statement of John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers (AFL) in an appearance before the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee in protesting President Truman's appointment of Boyd, 42, an Australian-born professor.

Mr. Lewis declared bluntly that the appointment will embitter the miners.

"We resent the fact that the Department of Interior plucked him out of obscurity without asking the men who are going to die in the mines if they are satisfied," he said.

"The miners resent it from the bottoms of their hearts."

Emphasizing the precarious lives of the men who work far underground, Mr. Lewis went on to testify that "statistically, in six years every man in the coal mining industry is either killed or injured."

Many coal mining states, he said, actually spend more money for the protection of wild life than to protect the miners' lives.

Mr. Lewis said that from 1942 to 1945 there were 6224 fatalities out of 322,637 casualties in the Nation's coal mines. Since 1942, he said, coal miners have dwindled in number from 450,000 to 375,000.

Contending that Boyd is unqualified and does not understand the coal miners' problems, Mr. Lewis said:

"Mr. Boyd may be a good man—good to his family. But we want someone who will be kind to the coal miners' families. We, the coal miners, are petitioning the Senate not to approve the appointment of a man who does not possess the qualifications for this job—and Mr. Boyd does not.

"It's like employing a watchmaker to repair a steam shovel."

Lilienthal, Clapp Nominations Strongly Backed By Green

Washington, D. C.—Confirmation of the nomination of David E. Lilienthal as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission was urged upon the United States Senate by AFL President William Green. In a letter to all members of the Senate Mr. Green also endorsed the appointment of Gordon R. Clapp to succeed Mr. Lilienthal as TVA Chairman. Mr. Green's letter follows:

"The American Federation of Labor favors the appointment of David E. Lilienthal as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Gordon R. Clapp as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. We regard these men as especially well qualified to serve in the positions to which President Truman appointed them.

"Mr. Lilienthal rendered excellent service as Director of the Tennessee Valley Authority. All the workers employed on that great project hold Mr. Lilienthal in high regard and esteem. He established and maintained a most valuable and friendly cooperation with the workers on the TVA project.

"Mr. Clapp also is possessed of the qualifications necessary to render service as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

"I respectfully request that you vote for the confirmation of the appointment of David E. Lilienthal as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Gordon R. Clapp as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority."